

SPINE-TINGLING TALES OF MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE

A QUALITY
COMIC
PUBLICATION

ANC

WEB OF EVIL

JULY No. 16

10c

What happens when a killer ghost is brought back from beyond...

See-

THE MEDIUM OF MURDER



DEATH'S
VENGEANCE

The
FIEND

HAMLET
OF HORROR

WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM



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THE

MEDIUM OF MURDER

Z-ZAKOR --- SEND
HIM BACK --- I BELIEVE
YOU NOW --- GASP GASP
--- CAN'T BREATHE ---

YOU WERE THE
ONE WHO DOUBTED
MY POWERS! NOW DIE
FOR YOUR INSOLENCE!

I-IT'S
UNBELIEVABLE...
GHOSTS THAT
KILL!

SOMEHOW THE TWISTED MADMAN HAD REACHED OUT INTO THE BEYOND
TO CAST HIS SPELL AND SUMMON THE EVIL SPIRITS WHO LURKED
THERE! AND UTILIZING THEIR FRIGHTENING POWERS ZAKOR STRUCK
UPON A UNIQUE PLAN --- A FOOLPROOF SCHEME FOR CRIME! FOR
HOW CAN A GHOST BE TRIED FOR MURDER?

WEB OF EVIL

In a swirling fog on the waterfront a short, stocky man paces back and forth impatiently. The echoing clatter of uptown traffic is suddenly broken by approaching footsteps!

I'M EXTREMELY SORRY TO BE LATE, MY FAT FRIEND! A RATHER IMPORTANT SEANCE DELAYED ME! THE SPIRITS ARE HARD TO COMMUNICATE WITH IN SUCH FOUL WEATHER!

HUAMPH! ME WITH A BAD TICKER AND YA KEEP ME WAITIN' IN THIS PEA SOUP! IF I CATCH A COLD IT'LL BE THE DEATH OF ME, ZAKOR!

AH, LOUIE... I FEAR YOUR SMALL MIND CANNOT GRASP THE IMPORTANCE OF MY MEDIUMISTIC ENDEAVORS!

AW...SAVE THAT SPIRITUAL STUFF FOR YOUR SUCKERS, ZAKOR! NOW ABOUT TONIGHT... THE BOSS WILL GIVE YA THIRTY MINUTES! BE THERE AT ELEVEN SHARP!



AN AUDIENCE WITH "BIG JIM" KELLER AT LAST! LOOK DEEP INTO MY EYES, LOUIE! CAN YOU NOT SEE MY ANXIETY?

H-HUH...?

THAT'S IT... READ IF YOU CAN MY THOUGHTS, LOUIE! I CAN HELP YOU... YOU ARE MY FRIEND! CONCENTRATE!

FOR SEVERAL MINUTES THE GANGSTER STANDS TRANSFIGURED BY THE MEDIUM'S SPELL! THEN...

HEY... DON'T PULL NONE OF THAT HOCUS-POCUS ON ME, ZAKOR! BE AT "BIG JIM'S" TONIGHT AT ELEVEN SHARP! AND REMEMBER... YA GOT THIRTY SHORT MINUTES!

THAT WILL BE SUFFICIENT TIME, LOUIE! THANK YOU!



LATER THAT EVENING, ZAKOR, MASTER MEDIUM, CALLS UPON UNDERWORLD CZAR "BIG JIM" KELLER AT HIS LUXURIOUS PENTHOUSE APARTMENT!

OH... IT'S YOU! I STILL THINK THE BOSS IS MAKIN' A BIG MISTAKE! YOU'RE AS PHONY AS CROOKED DICE!

ASIDE, PEON! SHOW ME TO YOUR... ER... MASTER IMMEDIATELY!

GREETINGS, MR. KELLER! I COME BEARING YOU THE FRUITS OF OPPORTUNITY!

CUT THE THEATRICS AND GET DOWN TO BUSINESS, ZAKOR! MY TIME IS VALUABLE!



VERY WELL! I HAVE STRUCK UPON AN INGENIOUS PLAN...ONE WHICH WILL BE OF GREAT BENEFIT TO YOUR BUSINESS! I CAN GUARANTEE THE **PERFECT MURDER!**

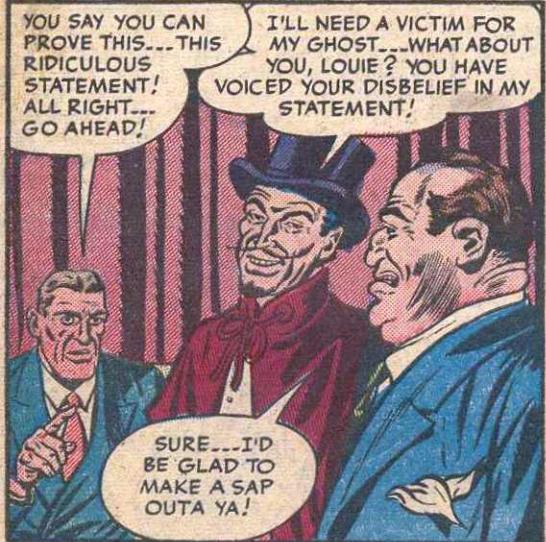
WHAT? START TALKING SENSE, ZAKOR!

THE UNDERWORLD FORMALITY OF HIRING OUT GUNMEN TO ANNIHILATE YOUR ENEMIES IS OBSOLETE, KELLER! WHY NOT EMPLOY GHOSTS TO DO THE JOB?

HUH? THE GUY'S BLOWN HIS TOP!

THIS IS NO JEST, KELLER! I AM IN COMMAND OF THE SPIRITUAL WORLD! I AND I ALONE HAVE THE POWER TO CONTROL IT! IF IT'S PROOF YOU WANT I CAN FURNISH IT...

OKAY, SWAMI! YOU'VE HAD YOUR LAUGH!



MOVING TO THE TERRACE. ZAKOR FACES THE HEAVENS ABOVE! THEN WITH OUT-STRETCHED HANDS, CHANTS INCESSANTLY AS THE SKEPTICAL GANGSTERS LOOK ON!



HUMPH! THIS CHARACTER SHOULD GET A ONE WAY TICKET TO THE INSANE ASYLUM!



CONTORTING HIS BODY GROTESQUELY, THE MEDIUM SUMMONS ALL HIS STRENGTH...

COME...COME, YOU DEMON SPIRITS! DESTROY THIS MAN AS I COMMAND!

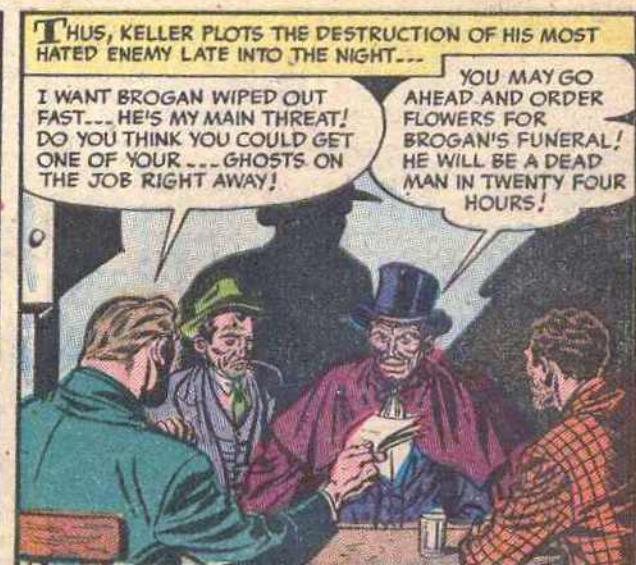
HAHAHA! THIS IS BETTER THAN A THREE RING CIRCUS...

BUT SUDDENLY, LAUGHTER LEAVES THE FACE OF THE MOBSTER AS...

THERE...THERE IS THE MAN WHO DOUBTS MY POWER! DESTROY HIM!

HOHOHO...I-I... WHA? T-THEAT THING... WHAT IS IT?

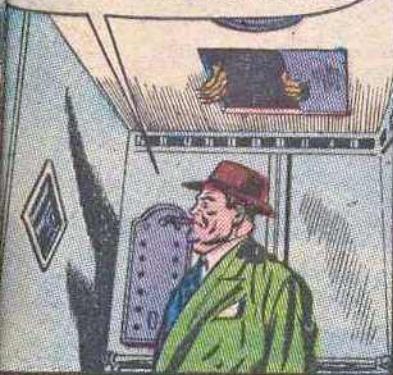
WEB OF EVIL



WEB OF EVIL

THE FOLLOWING EVENING AS "BOSS" ED BROGAN DESCENDS IN THE SELF-SERVICE ELEVATOR FROM HIS APARTMENT...

I GOTTA RETIRE FROM THE RACKETS ONE OF THESE DAYS! THE LAW'S MAKING IT TOUGH TO EARN A DISHONEST BUCK...



SUDDENLY...



BEFORE THE PANIC STRICKEN GANGSTER CAN REGAIN HIS SENSES...

Y-YIPE! W-WHO ARE YOU? WHAT IS THIS---A JOKE?

AAAAAEEE
EEEEEE
EEEEEE!



Y-YOU'RE NOT HUMAN!
GET AWAY FROM ME!
GET AWAY!



YAAAARGH!



THE NEXT MORNING, GANGSTER KELLER AND HIS MEN GLOAT AS THEY READ THE REPORT IN THE NEWSPAPER....

HAHAHA...THE PAPER SAYS "UNKNOWN ASSASSIN", BUT WE KNOW WHO DID IT HUH, ZAKOR? ONE OF YOUR GHOST BUDDIES!

I MUST CONGRATULATE IT ON A MOST EFFICIENT JOB!

SAY, ZAKOR...HOW'S CHANCES OF WATCHING YOUR GHOST IN ACTION WHEN YOU BUMP OFF ACE MAGELLAN?



VERY WELL!
THAT IS QUITE EASY TO ARRANGE!

SWELL!

BOY---I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE ACE GET IT!



THE NEXT EVENING, AS THE WEST SIDE GANG LEADER, ACE MAGELLAN, HEADS FOR HIS COUNTRY HIDEOUT!

HERE HE COMES!
THAT'S MAGELLAN'S CAR!

SILENCE! YOU MUST NOT MAKE A SOUND WHILE I SUMMON THE SPIRITS OF DEATH!...ARISE...ARISE, SPECTRES OF EVIL!

SUDDENLY...

OH, MIGHTY GHOSTS OF VENGEANCE... REVEAL YOURSELF SO THAT MY FRIENDS CAN SEE YOU DO MY BIDDING! SLAY ACE MAGELLAN!

S-SUFFERING CATS!

Shortly, Ace Magellan, hardened killer of the West Side, cringes before the terrifying spectre that moves toward him!

WHA...? YI!!!!!!
T-THE THING'S
NOT HUMAN!

L-LOOK!
T-THERE'S
THE...KILLER
GHOST!

AS THE GANG LEADER FLEES THE FEARFUL THING PURSUDES HIM!

HEEEEEEAA,
EEEEE!!!!!!
OOOOOO!

THEN, DEATH BLOTS OUT ANOTHER MURDEROUS CAREER...

YAAAAAGH!

HEE HEEEEE!
THE END, ACE MAGELLAN, THE END OF YOUR BLOOD-STAINED CAREER! COME... JOIN ME IN THE GLOOM OF DEATH!

AND AFTERWARD...

I-I NEVER SEEN NOTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE!

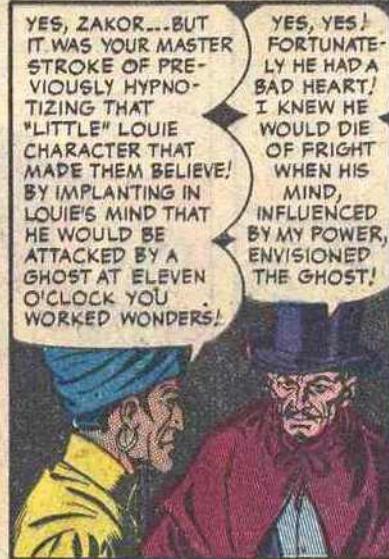
NO INDEED! NOW, GENTLEMEN, YOUR RIVALS ARE DEAD! I, THE GREAT ZAKOR, HAVE ELIMINATED THEM FOR YOU! WE WILL RETURN TO MY CHAMBER TO DISCUSS...ER, BUSINESS!

SHORTLY, THE WIDE-EYED THUGS FOLLOW ZAKOR TO A SINISTER DWELLING WHERE...

AS I SAID, WITH YOUR ENEMIES DISPOSED OF YOU CAN RULE THE CITY! I SHALL BE YOUR LEADER... FROM HENCEFORTH YOU WILL OBEY MY ORDERS AND BRING ALL STOLEN GOODS TO ME!

WHAT! YOU'RE TRYING TO TAKE OVER, ZAKOR! I'M THE BOSS!





WEB OF EVIL

HIGHER AND HIGHER ZAKOR'S ILL GOTEN GAINS ARE PILED UP! THEN, THE MEDIUM'S KEEN EYES SENSE TROUBLE...

AH, ZAKOR, WE HAVE A FABULOUS AMOUNT OF WEALTH ALREADY.

YES, MAJA, BUT I HAVE SEEN MURDER IN KELLER'S EYES OF LATE! HE PLANS TO TRICK ME I AM SURE!

TOMORROW NIGHT AT EIGHT YOU WILL DISPOSE OF KELLER! WE WILL FIND ANOTHER LEADER FOR THE GANG! KELLER IS TOO DANGEROUS... HE MUST BE DONE AWAY WITH!

VERY WELL, ZAKOR! I WILL BE IN THE SECRET BACK ROOM AT EIGHT SHARP! DO NOT FEAR!

THE NEXT EVENING, DOOM MOVES ON "BIG JIM" KELLER!

HARK WELL, KELLER! MY SPIRITS TELL ME YOU PLAN TO HARM ME! THEY HAVE DECIDED YOU MUST DIE!

WHA...?



HEAR ME, OH SPIRITS! DESCEND UPON THIS MAN WHO WISHES ME HARM! LET THE OTHERS SEE WHAT SHALL BEFALL THEM IF THEY DO NOT OBEY!

F-FINGERS! H-HARRY! HE'S CALLING THE GHOST FOR--- ME! HELP ME, DO SOMETHING!



NO! NO!

THE GHOST OF RIGHT SEEKS YOU OUT, KELLER! HE HAS COME FROM BEYOND TO DESTROY THOSE WITH EVIL IN THEIR HEART! ONLY I CAN BRING HIM FORTH TO SEEK HIS VENGEANCE!



HA! MAJA GETS CLEVERER EACH DAY! SUCH A COSTUME --- STRANGE HE HAS NOT TOLD ME OF IT!

THE GREAT GHOSTLY HANDS CLOSE IN UPON KELLER! PANIC STRICKEN, HIS LEGS TURN TO WATER --- HE IS HELPLESS!



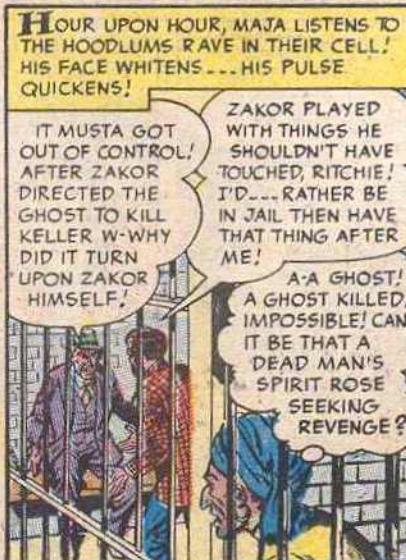
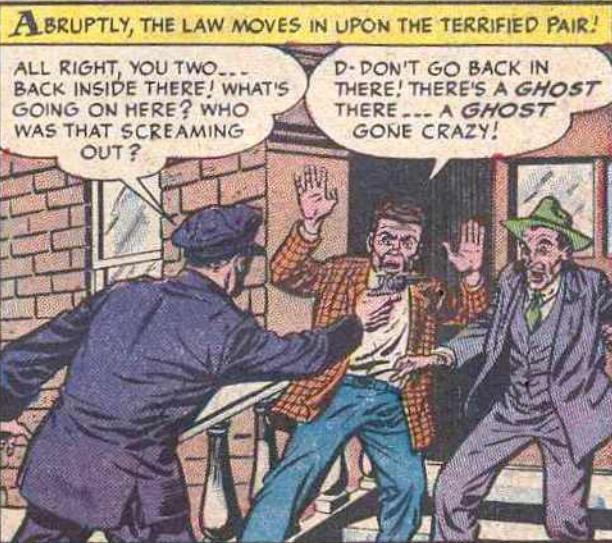
THEN, THE TERRIBLE THING TURNS---IT'S GHOSTLY EYES FALL UPON ZAKOR HIMSELF---

BACK---BACK, GHOST OF RIGHT! YOUR JOB IS FINISHED!

NO, ZAKOR... MY JOB... IS NOT DONE YET!



WEB OF EVIL



The FIEND of TERROR MOUNTAIN



"TERROR RACED THROUGH THE MAN WHO DEALT IN MURDER! NOW THE TABLES WERE TURNED--- NOW, DEATH, GROTESQUE AND IRRESISTIBLE, WAS MOVING IN UPON EMMET LEACHE! AND HE STOOD HELPLESS BEFORE THE CREATURE HE HAD CREATED--- A FIEND THAT WAS OBEDIENCE HIS ORDERS TO THE LETTER!"

AT TERROR MOUNTAIN INSTITUTION FOR THE INSANE A DANGEROUS PATIENT WORKS AT THE WINDOW OF HIS PADDED CELL...



AND SHORTLY, SUDDEN DEATH DESCENDS UPON A PASSING GUARD!



NONE
CAN
SUBDUE
THE
CRAZED
CREATURE...
FOR
THE
STRENGTH
OF TEN
MEN
SURGES
THROUGH
HIS
MASSIVE
HULK!



AS THE BRUTE EATS, CUNNING THOUGHTS FILL THE OTHER
MAN'S MIND!



NEXT MORNING...



IT IS PERFECT... PERFECT!
I CAN LOOT THE COUNTRY-
SIDE OF RICHES WITH THIS
BEAST... AND NONE WILL
EVER SUSPECT ME! WITH
MY BRAIN AND HIS BRAWN
WE SHALL BE
UNBEATABLE!



THAT EVENING, TWO SHADOWY FIGURES
CREEP UP TO A HUGE ESTATE!



THE DOOR OPENS...A WHITE-FACED BUTLER HAS TIME TO UTTER ONE SCREAM, AND...

WHA...? YI!!!!!!

HURRY...HURRY, ROCO!

YES, MR. LEACHE!

QUICKLY...INSIDE, ROCO! WE HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO!

THEN, THE DUO OF DEATH COMPLETES ITS MACABRE CRIME, AS...

HA! A KING'S RANSOM IN CASH AND SILVERWARE, ROCO! I WILL SOON MAKE YOU THE MOST INFAMOUS CRIMINAL IN ALL HISTORY...AND MYSELF THE RICHEST!

TRUE TO HIS WORD, EMMET LEACHE CONDUCTS HIS CAMPAIGN OF TERROR WITH A DEFT HAND IN THE DAYS TO FOLLOW!

EXCELLENT, ROCO!
HA! MAKE SURE HE'S DEAD!

DO NOT...WORRY,
MR. LEACHE!

EEEEEE

YAAAAA!

AND AS LEACHE GLOATS OVER HIS GROWING WEALTH, THE PAPERS SCREAM OUT THE GRISLY NEWS!



THEN, THE FOLLOWING EVENING AS A LIGHT RAIN COVERS THE COUNTRYSIDE...

WHO...DO WE...
ROB TONIGHT,
MR. LEACHE?
MUST I KILL
THAT MAN
INSIDE?

OF COURSE,
ROCO...HE IS
THE WEALTHY
DR. ANGUS! THEY
SAY HE HAS HIS
ENTIRE FORTUNE
HIDDEN IN HIS
LABORATORY!



SUDDENLY, AS THE POWERFUL ROCO IS ABOUT TO MOVE INTO ACTION!

OF COURSE...DR. ANGUS CAN EXAMINE ME...TELL ME WHAT CAUSES THE PAIN IN MY CHEST?
ROCO! NEVER MIND...GO HOME! I WILL SEE YOU LATER!



WEB OF EVIL

AND SHORTLY, WITHIN DR. ANGUS' HOUSE....

FINE!
I'LL

TELEPHONE YOU FOR
THE RESULTS DAY
AFTER TOMORROW!

A FLUOROSCOPE PICTURE AND
A CARDIAGRAPH SHOULD TELL
US WHAT'S BEEN CAUSING
THOSE PAINS IN YOUR CHEST,
MR. LEACHE! IT WILL TAKE
ME A DAY OR SO TO
DIAGNOSE YOUR
CASE!

HA! AND AFTER THAT,
YOU OLD GOAT, I'LL COME
BACK TO SEE YOU
WITH...ROCO!



BUT TWO DAYS LATER, THE SMILE LEAVES LEACHE'S FACE
AS HE SPEAKS WITH DR. ANGUS!

WHY SHOULD I BOTHER
COMING TO YOUR OFFICE
TO HEAR YOUR DIAGNOSIS?
TELL ME NOW...AT ONCE!
I DEMAND IT!

VERY WELL! I'M ---
SORRY TO TELL YOU THIS,
MR. LEACHE...BUT YOU
HAVE BUT A FEW DAYS OR
POSSIBLY WEEKS TO LIVE.
MY EXAMINATION SHOWS
YOUR HEART IS DAMAGED
BEYOND REPAIR!



ICY FINGERS OF FEAR CLUTCH THE MAN WHO DEALS IN
DEATH....THE BLOOD DRAINS FROM HIS FACE, AS...

WHEN THE TIME COMES, I MAY BE
ABLE TO EASE THE GREAT PAIN
YOU WILL SUFFER...THAT IS ALL
I CAN DO!

P-PAIN...I'M
GOING TO
SUFFER...



THEN, WILD, UNCONTROLLABLE ANGER RACES THROUGH
THE KILLER'S BODY...



MR. LEACHE...
YOU IN
TROUBLE?
ROCO
HELP...

YOU BIG OAF OF A
CREATURE...WHAT
COULD YOU DO TO
HELP A MAN
DOOMED TO DIE!
HA! DEATH WAS
THE ONLY
THING I
COULD NOT
OUTWIT!



BUT WAIT...PERHAPS I CAN
OUTWIT DEATH ALSO! YES...YES,
ROCO, YOU CAN HELP! YOU
CAN...KILL ME! OF COURSE!
ONE DAY, WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK,
YOU CAN SLAY ME! I SHALL BE
ANOTHER POOR VICTIM OF YOUR
GREAT HANDS...AND EVERYONE
SHALL FEEL SORRY
FOR ME!



FLAMES OF MADNESS LICK AT THE
LEACHE'S MIND AS HE UNFOLDS HIS
PLAN TO OUTWIT DEATH ITSELF!

I MUST NEVER KNOW WHEN IT
HAPPENS, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
WITHIN THE WEEK...WHEN I AM
LEAST SUSPECTING IT YOU WILL
STRIKE, EH, ROCO! HA! I SHALL DIE

A RESPECTED
MAN AND CHEAT
DEATH OF THE
SUFFERING
SHE SEEKS
TO WILL ME!

I...WILL DO
ANYTHING...YOU
WANT ME TO, MR.
LEACHE! I WILL...
KILL YOU...LIKE THE
OTHERS...WHEN YOU
DO NOT...EXPECT
IT!



THUS, DOES THE BIZARRE GAME OF LIFE AND DEATH BEGIN! TWO DAYS PASS AND...

THE VILLAGE WILL FEEL SORRY FOR ME... HA! I WILL, HAVE A RESPECTED FUNERAL... ANOTHER VICTIM OF THE HORRIBLE FIEND!



FRANTICALLY, THE MAN OF MURDER SCREAMS FOR HIS MONSTER...

I'M SINKING... NO! NO! I DON'T WANT TO DIE NOW! HELP! HELP! ROCO! ROCO!

LEACHE'S VOICE WAVERS AND CRACKS AS HE CRIES OUT!

ROCO! ROCO!
HURRY---
HURRY!

AND WHEN EMMET LEACHE IS DRAGGED FROM THE BRINK OF A TERRIBLE DEATH BY ROCO...

AWWWK ERRWWK

G-GOOD GRIEF!
I- I'VE LOST MY
VOICE FROM
ALL THAT
SHOUTING!

AS ROCO CARRIES HIS MASTER BACK...

DR. ANGUS!
WHAT IN THUNDER
DOES HE WANT OF
ME?

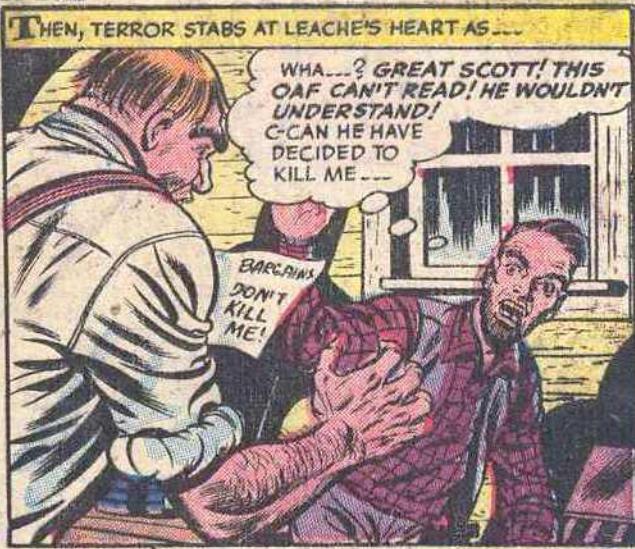
MR. LEACHE... THANK GOODNESS I FOUND YOU!
THERE'S BEEN A TERRIBLE MISTAKE! YOU
AREN'T GOING TO DIE... MY NURSE MISTAKEN-
LY HANDED ME THE WRONG FLUOROSCOPE
PICTURE! YOU'VE GOT A HEALTHY HEART!



MMFFFFM
BAH! I CAN'T GET
MY VOICE BACK...
BUT WHO CARES?
HA! I'VE REALLY
OUTWITTED DEATH
NOW! I'M GOING
TO LIVE!
HA, HA, HA!

IT WAS A GHASTLY
ERROR... NO WONDER
YOU'RE SPEECHLESS
WITH SHOCK, MR.
LEACHE! WELL, I'LL
RUN ALONG AND
LET YOU COMPOSE
YOURSELF!





DESPERATELY, FRANTICALLY LEACHE STRIVES TO UTTER THE PRECIOUS WORDS THAT CAN SAVE HIS LIFE!



P-PERHAPS HE HASN'T PICKED THE TIME YET!
YES... THAT'S IT... I'LL RUN TO THE VILLAGE,
I'LL BE ABLE TO WRITE
A NOTE AND EXPLAIN MY
PROBLEM TO THE TOWNS-
FOLK!



FOR AN HOUR THE FRENZIED MAN RUNS TOWARD TOWN... AND BEHIND HIM, UNSEEN, STALKS HIS ASSASSIN...



THEN, A MOMENT LATER, AS EMMET LEACHE PASSES THE CLUMP OF TREES...



AND AS EMMET LEACHE'S BODY SLIPS TO THE GROUND, A BULLET FROM ABOVE PUTS AN END TO THE CAREER OF THE DUO OF DEATH!



THE HAMLET OF HORROR

LOOK! LUNA HAS SEIZED TWO MORE FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD!

UGH! SUCH HORRIBLE, DEFORMED BEINGS! I-I CAN'T LOOK AT THEM!

STEP ASIDE! DR. BONO MAY SAVE THEM IF HE OPERATES IMMEDIATELY!

T-THIS IS FANTASTIC! A VILLAGE OF CREATURES WHERE WE ARE THE ONES WHO ARE LOOKED UPON...AS FREAKS!



THE HIDEOUS CREATURES LIVED IN A WORLD OF THEIR OWN... A CIVILIZATION COMPLETELY OPPOSITE TO OURS! ONE IN WHICH UGLINESS WAS BEAUTY AND BEAUTY WAS UGLINESS! CAN YOU POSSIBLY IMAGINE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TWO MEMBERS FROM OUR OWN SOCIETY FALL VICTIM TO THESE MONSTERS... AND WHAT THEIR EVENTUAL FATE WILL BE!

IN THE DEEP SOUTH DOCTOR JOHN AMES AND HIS WIFE DRIVE ALONG A STRANGE, LONELY BACK ROAD!

JOHN, YOU'VE BEEN DRIVING ALONG THIS BACK ROAD FOR HOURS! PLEASE... LET'S RETURN TO THE HIGHWAY... I FEEL NERVOUS HERE!

NONSENSE, DARLING! THIS IS THE REAL THRILL OF TOURING... SEEING THE BACK COUNTRY!



SUDDENLY... I KNOW, BUT IT'S SO EERIE HERE AND... JOHN! WHAT'S HAPPENED?

T-THE BRAKES! I-I CAN'T STOP THE CAR!



DOWN...DOWN TOWARD THE OMINOUS RIVER AHEAD SPEEDS THE CAR! FINALLY...

GOOD GRIEF! JUMP, DORIS! JUMP CLEAR!



THE TWO TOURISTS FLOUNDER IN THE WATER...FRANTICALLY FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL...

I-I CAN'T MAKE IT...

KEEP FIGHTING... DON'T GIVE UP, DORIS!



THEN, AS THE GASPING WOMAN IS ABOUT TO SURRENDER TO THE CURRENT...

?GASPE?
?GASPE
OH-H...



STARK HORROR SUDDENLY FILLS DORIS AMES' FACE AS...

EEEEEEK! LET ME GO!
JOHN! JOHN!



THE WATER CLOSES IN UPON THE WOMAN WHO PREFERS DEATH TO THE TERROR BEFORE HER! ABRUPTLY HANDS CLUTCH AT HER HAIR AND...

UGH! SUCH HORRIBLE, DEFORMED BEINGS! NEVERTHELESS, WE MUST SAVE THEM!

G-GREAT HANNAH! W-WHAT MONSTERS WHO CAN THEY BE? WHAT CAN THEY BE?



PUT HER DOWN, YOU FIEND! DON'T TOUCH HER... Y-YOU'RE FOUL!

QUIET THE EXCITED ONE! WE MUST HELP THEM FOR THEIR OWN GOOD!



Y-YOU ANIMALS... OH-H!

GOOD! WE WILL BRING THEM BACK WITH US TO THE HAMLET!

YES, LUNA...UGH! WHAT SORRY SIGHTS TO BEHOLD!



WEB OF EVIL

THE WEIRD, CONTORTED CREATURES MOVE OFF WITH JOHN AND DORIS! FINALLY, HOURS LATER, THEY REACH THEIR EERIE DESTINATION!

LUNA! WHAT HAVE YOU THERE... MORE OF THE UGLY ONES FROM OUTSIDE?

YES! THESE TWO ARE THE MOST HORRIBLE WE HAVE YET BROUGHT BACK! STEP ASIDE... DR. BONO MUST SEE THEM AT ONCE!

SHORTLY, IN THE COMMUNITY DOCTOR'S LABORATORY...

DR. BONO! WE HAVE BROUGHT YOU TWO MORE PATIENTS... BUT I FEAR THESE ARE BEYOND EVEN YOUR HELP!

AH, LUNA... YOU MUST NOT GIVE UP SO QUICKLY! I WILL EXAMINE THEM IN A MOMENT!



NOW WHERE ARE THEY... O-OH! YOU DID NOT EXAGGERATE! THEY ARE INDEED Hideous, Luna!

NO! NO! I-I CAN'T LOOK! EGASPE

YES, THEY ARE PARTICULARLY UGLY! HOW COULD SUCH THINGS EXIST? LUNA! WE MUST ACT QUICKLY IF WE ARE TO SAVE THEM!

YES, DOCTOR!

TOMORROW I WILL OPERATE ON THE... GIRL! NOW TAKE THEM TO THE CONFINEMENT BUILDING! I-I CAN'T BEAR THE SIGHT OF THEM ANY LONGER!

O-OPERA! JOHN... AM I GOING MAD?

STEADY, DORIS...



IN THE DAMP STILLNESS OF THEIR CELL DOCTOR JOHN AMES AND HIS WIFE ATTEMPT TO ANALYZE THEIR FANTASTIC EXPERIENCE!

I-IT MUST BE A DREAM! THIS COULDN'T HAPPEN TO US, JOHN! PLEASE! PLEASE TELL ME IT'S ALL A BAD DREAM!

I'M AFRAID THIS IS NO NIGHTMARE, DORIS! WE'VE STUMBLLED UPON A CIVILIZATION... IN REVERSE! THESE UNFORTUNATE CREATURES CONSIDER PHYSICAL BEAUTY UGLY!

I-I SEE! THEN... IN THEIR EYES WE ARE THE CREATURES, THE FREAKS!

EXACTLY! AND JUST AS OUR PLASTIC SURGEONS FIX DISTORTED FEATURES THESE CREATURES INTEND TO MAKE US LOOK LIKE THEM!



WEB OF EVIL

JOHN! YOU DON'T MEAN THEY'RE GOING TO OPERATE ON US AND... OH, NO!

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE, DORIS! WE'RE AT THEIR MERCY!

TERROR STRICKEN, THE HELPLESS PAIR WAIT THROUGH THE LONG, DARK NIGHT! THEN, THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

HURRY, JAILER! DR. BONO IS AWAITING THE FEMALE IN THE OPERATING ROOM!

HEHEHEHE... INDEED!

J-JOHN! DON'T LET THEM TAKE ME!



LEAVE HER ALONE! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TERRIBLE THING... UGHHH!

SILENCE, FOOL! WE ONLY SEEK TO HELP YOU BOTH! YOU WILL THANK US WHEN IT IS OVER!

NO! NO!

PLEASE DON'T DO THIS THING! GIVE YOURSELVES UP TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD! THEY WILL HELP YOU!

SURRENDER TO A CIVILIZATION OF FREAKS! NONSENSE! WE KNOW WHAT THEY DO TO NORMAL ONES SUCH AS WE ARE!

...YOU CAGE US LIKE ANIMALS IN YOUR ASYLUMS! THE LESS FORTUNATE OF US ARE DISPLAYED FOR YOUR FELLOW CREATURES TO MARVEL AT!

T-THIS IS FANTASTIC! DORIS IS RIGHT! THIS MUST BE A DREAM... A NIGHTMARE! SUCH HORROR COULD NEVER HAPPEN!



AS THE DAYS SLIP INTO WEEKS JOHN AMES' LIFE BECOMES A LIVING HELL!

WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO HER?

POOR DORIS... SOB... WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN?

I'LL... NEVER SEE HER AGAIN! THEY'VE KILLED HER!



VISIONS OF HIS WIFE'S BEAUTY FILL JOHN'S THOUGHTS THROUGH THE LONG HOURS OF THE NIGHTS AND DAYS!

OH, DORIS... DORIS! WHAT WILL I EVER DO WITHOUT YOU! THOSE FIENDS... I'LL MAKE THEM PAY FOR THIS!



FINALLY, ON THE FIFTH WEEK THE CREAK OF A DOOR
BRINGS AMES TO HIS FEET!

HEE, HEE, UGLY ONE... THE
OPERATION IS OVER! BONO
HAS SAVED YOUR MATE FROM
THE FATE THAT AWAITED HER!

D-DORIS! C-CAN THAT
BE DORIS UNDER
THE HOOD?

SLOWLY, THE HOOD IS RAISED AND A CRY OF HORROR
BREAKS FROM JOHN AMES' LIPS!

G-GREAT MERCY...
THAT BRACELET....
IT IS DORIS!

YES, JOHN!
IT IS YOUR
WIFE! I AM
VERY HAPPY
NOW!

HEE, HEE! AND
SOON YOU TOO
SHALL HAVE A
BRAND NEW,
BEAUTIFUL FACE,
UGLY ONE!

T-THE FIENDS...
THEY'VE STOLEN
HER MIND AS
WELL AS HER FACE!
W-WHAT CAN I DO?
WHAT CAN I DO?

DO NOT
GRIEVE,
HOMELY
ONE....
SOON
YOU WILL
JOIN HER
AGAIN!

YES,
DARLING...
I SHALL BE
CLOSE BY
YOUR CELL
WAITING
FOR YOU!
TOMORROW
BONO SHALL
OPERATE ON
YOU ALSO!

THAT NIGHT, A HEAVY RAIN
FALLS INTO AMES' CELL... THE
DOCTOR'S MIND REELS UNDER
THE IMPACT OF THE HORROR
HE HAS SEEN!

IT'S MADNESS
... MADNESS! SOMEHOW,
SOME WAY, I MUST DO SOMETHING!
I MUST ESCAPE...
GET DORIS TO A DOCTOR!
HMM, I WONDER ...

DOCTOR AMES' STOOPS TO HIS
KNEES... HIS HANDS DIG DEEP INTO
THE SOFT CLAY THE RAIN HAS MADE!

YES, YES... WITH THIS CLAY AND
THE STRAW THATCHWORK FROM
THE ROOF I MAY BE ABLE TO DO
IT! I-I
MUST!



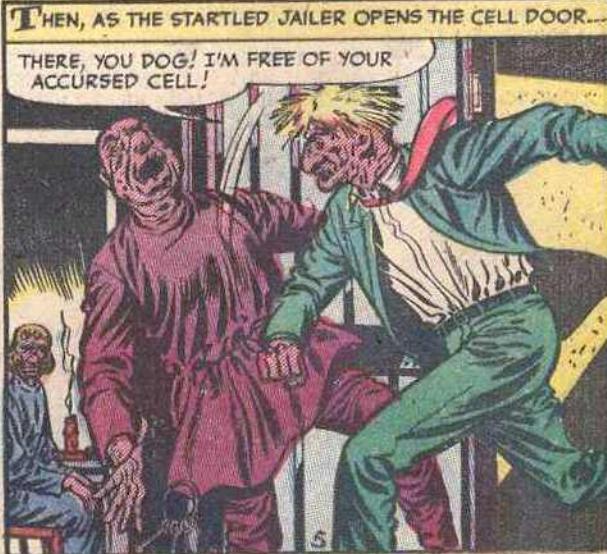
AN HOUR LATER, THE GROTESQUE JAILER IS STUNNED
AS...

WHAT ARE YOU
SHOUTING FOR, UGLY ONE...
YI!!! YOU ARE NO LONGER
UGLY! YOU ARE---
HANDSOME!

YES, YES, YOU FOOL! A
MIRACLE HAS HAPPENED!
NOW I'M ONE OF YOU---
LET ME OUT! LET ME BE
WITH MY WIFE AS YOU
PROMISED!

THEN, AS THE STARTLED JAILER OPENS THE CELL DOOR...

THERE, YOU DOG! I'M FREE OF YOUR
ACCURSED CELL!



JOHN... YOUR FACE! HOW WONDERFUL THAT YOU'RE NORMAL NOW WITHOUT THE OPERATION... B-BUT WHY DID YOU HIT THE JAILER? HE'S OUR FRIEND!

DORIS, YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND... THEY'VE DONE SOMETHING TO YOUR BRAIN! YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!

INTO THE POURING RAIN JOHN AMES CARRIES HIS STRUGGLING WIFE! FEAR GIVES STRENGTH TO HIS LIMBS AS HE RUNS FROM THE TERRIBLE HAMLET!

EEEEEK! YOU TRICKED ME! YOU'RE STILL... UGLY! IT WAS ALL A DISGUISE!

YES, DARLING... OF CLAY AND STRAW! PLEASE... PLEASE BELIEVE IN ME! I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOU... TRYING TO SAVE US BOTH! W-WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO... TO CIVILIZATION!

MILE AFTER MILE DOCTOR AMES WANDERS THROUGH THE GRIM COUNTRY-SIDE! FINALLY, COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED, HE LOSES HIS FOOTING AND...

DORIS! DORIS! COME BACK... YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING! WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUR WAY OUT... PLEASE, PLEASE COME BACK!

THE HOURS PASS... THE RAIN CEASES! THEN, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF A VILLAGE...

WE FOUND HIM WANDERING AROUND ON THE HIGHWAY! SOMETHING'S WRONG, SERGEANT... HE'S RAVING ABOUT BEING ATTACKED BY MONSTERS!

I-IT'S THE TRUTH! THEY'VE GOT MY WIFE... YOU MUST HELP ME!

JUST TAKE IT EASY, FELLA! WE'LL HELP YOU... NOW, TELL US ALL ABOUT IT!

WHEN JOHN AMES HAS LED THE POLICE TO THE SCENE OF HIS ACCIDENT...

HMM! NO WONDER THE POOR FELLOW'S GONE MAD! EVIDENTLY HIS WIFE WAS WASHED DOWN STREAM AFTER THE CRASH!

NO! NO! MONSTERS GRABBED US BOTH! YOU COULD HAVE SEEN THEIR FOOT-PRINTS... THERE... BUT THE RAIN WASHED THEM AWAY!

POOR DEVIL— THE TRAGEDY HAS DRIVEN HIM MAD AS A HATTER!

SO IT IS, THAT THE DOORS OF THE MADHOUSE OPEN UP TO DOCTOR JOHN AMES!

T-THEY CALL ME MAD... PERHAPS THEY ARE RIGHT! SUCH TERRIBLE VISIONS SEEM FANTASTIC! I-I MUST HAVE IMAGINED IT ALL! YES... POOR, DEAR DORIS WAS DROWNED... JUST LIKE THEY SAY!

AMES SEEMS TO BE IMPROVING! HE'S A FINE GENTLEMAN... I CERTAINLY HOPE HE PULLS HIMSELF TOGETHER!

AND IN THE MONTHS TO FOLLOW JOHN AMES DOES PULL HIMSELF TOGETHER! SOON THE AUTHORITIES DECIDE HE CAN BE RELEASED!

WE FEEL YOU'VE WON THE BATTLE, DR. AMES! TRY TO KEEP DARK THOUGHTS FROM YOUR MIND AND TAKE YOUR PLACE IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU! YOU'VE ALL BEEN WONDERFUL TO ME! GOODBYE!

WEB OF EVIL

BUT AS THE DAYS PASS, DOCTOR AMES CANNOT KEEP THE VISION OF HIS LOVELY WIFE FROM HIS MIND!

NO, NO! MAD THEY MIGHT CALL ME BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE IT WAS ALL A NIGHTMARE! I'VE GOT TO KEEP SEARCHING FOR DORIS! SOMEWHERE OUT IN THAT DREADED COUNTRY-SIDE SHE MAY BE WAITING!



I-IT WAS A MIRACLE I MANAGED TO ESCAPE WHEN THEY OPENED MY CELL DOOR TO FEED ME! I PLACED A LOCK OF MY HAIR IN THE CATCH...OH, JOHN, TAKE ME AWAY FROM THIS TERRIBLE PLACE!



NOW, DOCTOR, YOU KNOW IN YOUR DESCRIPTION OF YOUR WIFE YOU DEFINITELY TOLD US SHE ALWAYS WORE A VALUABLE SILVER BRACELET! THIS WOMAN HAS NONE!

BUT...

WAIT, DEAR...IF WE PERSIST THEY MAY PUT ME BACK IN THE MENTAL INSTITUTION! WE'D...BETTER GO!



NIGHT AND DAY, THE HALF CRAZED DOCTOR ROAMS THE WOODS! THEN...

D-DORIS! DORIS! I'VE FOUND HER! S-SHE'S NORMAL---SHE'S... HERSELF!

J-JOHN...



OH, DARLING...IT WAS TERRIBLE! THEY TRICKED YOU! ONE OF THOSE TERRIBLE CREATURES PRE-TENDED TO BE ME! THEY...STOLE MY BRACELET SO YOU'D BELIEVE IT!



THE FIENDS! THEIR TWISTED BRAINS WANTED VENGEANCE AGAINST US BECAUSE OF OUR NORMAL GOOD LOOKS! THEY SOUGHT TO DRIVE US MAD WITH THAT TRICK!

SHORTLY, AS AMES AND HIS WIFE PLEAD WITH THE POLICE...

NOW, DOCTOR AMES, YOU'VE BEEN A SICK MAN! I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS WOMAN IS BUT YOU KNOW YOUR WIFE DROWNED IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT!

JUST FORGET ALL ABOUT THESE VISIONS YOU'VE HAD!

GOOD GRIEF! I TELL YOU THIS IS MY WIFE AND THERE ARE MONSTRous DEVILS OUT THERE IN THE WOODS! YOU MUST BELIEVE US!



WE'LL JUST FORGET IT EVER HAPPENED, DARLING! AND WE'LL DRIVE BACK HOME!

YES, JOHN...AND THIS TIME WE WON'T TAKE ANY BACK ROADS, WILL WE?

MAD AS MARCH HARES... BOTH OF THEM!



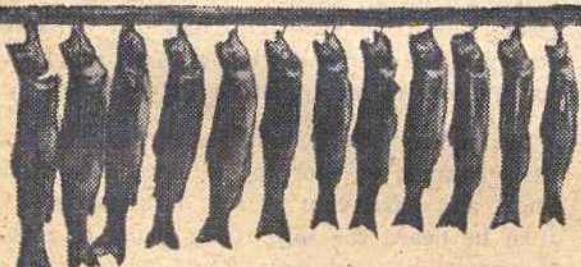
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MURDER TRAP

THE thought of murder became cold decision in Paul Dexter's mind the afternoon they found the treasure chest. He stood back, cold and calculating, while his two partners, Jameson and Rhodes, bent excitedly over the spot their probe rod had indicated. Again and again Rhodes jammed the long steel rod into the soft earth of the swamp island until it thudded dully off the hard object deep underneath.

"That's it," he shouted wildly at last. "It's rectangular, two feet wide by three feet long—the exact size of the pirate chest as recorded on the map. And it's only three feet down. By tomorrow night we'll have it out and a million dollars in pirate loot will be ours."

Standing back, Paul Dexter raised his eyes to the sinister green wall of the great swamp, pressing like an ever-present threat against the tiny island of solid earth. They had come there a week before, posing as scientists studying swamp life. They had built the small but sturdy shack and begun the foot-by-foot search of the island with the probe rod. And today their efforts had been rewarded.

He looked with new calculation at these two men whom Fate had joined with him. Tom Rhodes had owned the ancient map showing where a pirate had buried a million dollars in loot on the island in the great swamp. Jameson had supplied the money for the search.

Dexter had been given a partnership because his degree in science gave them an excuse to live in the swamp without betraying their real purpose to the swamp dwellers. And now it came to him with a new sharpness that, with these other two dead, the treasure would be all his.

He looked up at the shadows of night, already long across the dismal wilderness. Here a cotton-mouth arroded across the sluggish water that surrounded them. Somewhere close by an alligator bellowed. Night was closing in and with it would come *The Sobbing Thing*!

They had heard whispers of it and, that first night, they had seen it. Now Paul tried to guess what it was. They had seen it, true, but only as a shape of fearful immensity, moving with a kind

of oozing crawl, slipping around and around the island as it gave forth the anguished sobbing sound that had caused its name. What was it? Some prehistoric monster, surviving in the eternal land of quivering earth? Some horror from another dimension, another world? Whatever it was, it had kept them awake night after night as it circled their tiny island, but never once had it set foot on the solid ground itself. They had built their cabin solid and fashioned heavy bars for doors and windows, so they felt safe.

Now suddenly aware that the dreaded night was falling, Paul Dexter got his idea. The others were intent on the treasure. Paul whirled, ran to the shack and slammed the door. From inside he barred it and barred the windows. Then, lighting his pipe with trembling hands, he waited.

It was half an hour before Rhodes discovered the deepening shadows. Paul heard him say, "We'd better get inside, Tom, before the *Sobbing Thing* comes." And then his wild, frightened yell of discovery. "The door and windows are barred. Paul, for the love of mercy, let us in."

Dexter sat quietly, not answering. He heard them hammer on door and windows. Heard them plead and curse him as the darkness fell. And then he heard the soft, rising sound of sobbing that marked the advent of *The Sobbing Thing*. He heard their prayers and curses change to shrieks of awful horror. Manning's yell rose and broke suddenly, and then Rhodes screamed, "Paul! For heaven's sake, if you must kill me, shoot me. Don't let that . . ." And then the silence. The awful, trembling, sobbing silence. And then a faint, shuffling noise. A stench of ancient ooze, a creaking as something pressed against the door.

Then Paul Dexter knew what he had done. He had doomed his two partners to death—but in so doing, he had doomed himself. The *Sobbing Thing* had at last tasted human flesh and it was no longer content to stay in the swamp. Now it was hungry, pressing at the door. He had fed it, had fanned its horrid appetite. With bulging eyes and lips too frozen to utter the scream locked in his throat, he saw the door began to bend and then to break . . .

DEATH'S VENGEANCE



ONLY ARTHUR DUNSTER KNEW THE TERRIBLE SECRET OF THE RELICS IN THE MUSEUM BASEMENT! AND HIS LIPS WERE SEALED... FOR NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE THE FIENDISH PLOT THE LONG DEAD CURIOS WERE HATCHING THERE! YES, ONLY A MAD MAN WOULD BELIEVE HIS STORY... AND DUNSTER WAS DOOMED!

IN A SMALL ROOM IN A WING OF THE CITY MUSEUM CURATOR, ARTHUR DUNSTER, FROWNS AT THOSE WHO SCOFF AT HIS RELICS!

HA, HA! HOW ABSURD! IMAGINE THE MUSEUM EXPECTING FOLKS TO BELIEVE THESE RELICS ACTUALLY ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF EVIL!

CERTAINLY! IT'S A CHEAP WAY TO GET PUBLICITY!

FOOLS!



YOU ARE WRONG! EACH ITEM IN THIS COLLECTION WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN CAUSING TERROR AND HORROR RARELY KNOWN IN THE WORLD TODAY! THE AZTEC DEVIL HERE SLEW THOUSANDS BEFORE HE HIMSELF WAS SLAIN AND PUT INTO THIS MUMMIFIED STATE!

SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF HOKUM TO ME! HA! NOBODY COULD PROVE IT!



WEB OF EVIL

AND AFTERWARD, AS THE FEW VISITORS LEAVE...

WELL, DUNSTER, I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO CLOSE UP YOUR RELIC ROOM! THE PEOPLE JUST DON'T BELIEVE YOUR EXHIBITIONS OF EVIL AND THE MUSEUM NEEDS THE SPACE!

YES, MR. DANE! THEY COME ONLY TO LAUGH! THEY... DO NOT KNOW OF THE EVIL... THAT ACTUALLY LURKS HERE!

I WOULDN'T BE UPSET ABOUT IT, DUNSTER! YOU CAN PACK THESE CURIOS UP IN THE STORE ROOM AND TAKE YOUR OLD JOB BACK IN THE MAIN ROOM!

YES...YES, MR. DANE! I WILL PACK THEM AWAY AT ONCE!

SHORTLY, AS THE DEJECTED LITTLE CURATOR PUTS HIS BELOVED RELICS AWAY IN THE BASEMENT!

WHAT A PITY... BRAVE EXPLORERS RISKED DEATH AND TORTURE TO UNEARTH YOU PIECES... AND NOW NONE WILL BELIEVE THE HORROR THAT YOU HAVE WITNESSED! YOU... SHALL BE BURIED FOREVER IN THE DARK RECESSSES OF THE MUSEUM BASEMENT HERE!



SUDDENLY, THE DEATH MASK VIBRATES IN DUNSTER'S HANDS, A HOLLOW EERIE VOICE BOOMS FORTH...

DO... NOT FEAR... ARTHUR DUNSTER! VENGEANCE... SHALL BE... OURS! SOON... THE WORLD... SHALL KNOW... OF THE EVIL POWER WE POSSESS!

WHA...?



ABRUPTLY, THE ROOM RINGS WITH A CHANT OF HORROR UNHEARD BY HUMAN EARS BEFORE! THE CURATOR STAGGERS, STUMBLING BACKWARD AS STARK TERROR CLUTCHES HIM!



THEN...

DO NOT FEAR US...

YOU... ARE OUR FRIEND, DUNSTER!

T-THEY'RE ALIVE! T-THEY'VE COME BACK TO LIFE... G-GREAT HEAVENS!



G-GOOD GRIEF, DUNSTER... YOU LOOK FRIGHTFUL! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MAN?

W-WHO WOULD BELIEVE ME? T-THEY'LL CALL ME MAD IF I TELL THEM WHAT I SAW AND HEARD!

NO, NO, MR. DANE! I'VE... JUST HAD A TOUCH OF A HEADACHE! I'LL... BE ALL RIGHT! I'LL... GO HOME AND REST!



WEB OF EVIL

POOR DUNSTER... HE WORKED NIGHT AND DAY FOR YEARS TO PUT HIS COLLECTION OF HORROR TOGETHER! I'M AFRAID FOR HIS HEALTH. THE PUBLIC'S REACTION TO THE RELICS WAS QUITE A SHOCK TO HIM!

YES, DUNSTER'S HEALTH HAS NEVER BEEN TOO GOOD! PERHAPS A VACATION WOULD HELP!



MEANWHILE, KENNETH CRANDELL, EXPLORER, PREPARES FOR BED IN HIS MID-TOWN APARTMENT!

BETTER GET TO BED EARLY... GOT TO GIVE THAT LECTURE AT THE EXPLORERS CLUB TOMORROW!



AH, BUT IT IS CRANDELL! YOU REMOVED ME FROM THE DIM, DARK TOMB THAT WAS MY RESTING PLACE! NOW, I HAVE COME BACK TO JOIN YOU!

B-BUT YOU'RE AT THE MUSEUM! W-WHY DO YOU COME HERE? Y-YOU'RE ONLY A... A MASK! H-HOW DO YOU TALK...MOVE?



THE LEERING FACE OF EVIL MOVES CLOSER, CLOSER TO CRANDELL! SUDDENLY...

HERE IS YOUR REWARD FOR DEFILING MY RESTING PLACE, CRANDELL! YOU MAY WEAR ME!



THAT NIGHT, SLEEP ESCAPES ARTHUR DUNSTER AS THE VISIONS OF HORROR COME ALIVE IN HIS SUB-CONSCIOUS MIND!

HEE, HEE! SOON VENGEANCE WILL BE OURS, ARTHUR DUNSTER! HO, HO! THE WORLD WILL SEE OUR ANCIENT EVIL FIRST HAND!

NO! NO! DON'T TORMENT ME SO! PLEASE... GO AWAY!



SUDDENLY, AS DARKNESS FILLS THE BED ROOM...

HELLO, KENNETH CRANDELL! WE ARE OLD FRIENDS... REMEMBER?

YI!!!!/THE MASK--- THE AMAZON DEATH MASK! IT... CAN'T BE!



THEN, THE NECK THONGS TIGHTEN, CRANDELL GASPS FOR AIR AND...

:GASP: :GASP: NO, NO... CAN'T BREATHE... CHOKING... CHOKING...



WEB OF EVIL

AND NEXT MORNING, MUSEUM OFFICIALS ARE HASTILY SUMMONED BY POLICE AS CRANDELL'S BODY IS DISCOVERED!

I...I FOUND POOR MR. CRANDELL JUST LIKE THAT!

YOU SAY THIS DEATH MASK WAS AT THE MUSEUM! HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR IT BEING HERE?

I...I CAN'T SAY!

THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE EXPLANATION! IT WAS REMOVED FROM EXHIBITION FOR STORAGE YESTERDAY! MR. CRANDELL MUST HAVE TAKEN IT OUT... AND ACCIDENTLY KILLED HIMSELF WHILE TRYING IT ON!

HMM! THAT MAKES SENSE, I GUESS! YOU'D THINK HE'D BE CAREFUL PLAYING WITH SUCH A FIENDISH THING, SEEING AS HOW HE FOUND IT!



BUT THAT AFTERNOON AT THE MUSEUM, ONE PERSON KNOWS THAT CRANDELL'S DEATH IS NOT AN ACCIDENT!

YOU FIENDS! YOU'VE UNLEASHED YOUR EVIL UPON THE WORLD AGAIN! A-AND I'M HELPLESS TO STOP YOU--- FOR NONE WOULD BELIEVE ME!



AND YOU... YOU MURDERER--- YOU'VE WON YOUR POINT! MR. DANE WANTS YOU ON DISPLAY UPSTAIRS BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE CURIOUS NOW! THEY WANT TO SEE THE THING THAT KILLED KENNETH CRANDELL! ONLY I KNOW IT WAS NO ACCIDENT!



LATER...

THAT'S FINE, DUNSTER! AT LEAST ONE OF YOUR TREASURED RELICS IS GETTING A DISPLAY!



YES, SIR!

W-WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? M-MY HEAD... I'M DIZZY... SHAKING ALL OVER! SHOULD I TELL MR. DANE? SHOULD I WARN HIM THE RELICS THEMSELVES ARE SEEKING VENGEANCE? NO---NO, HE WOULD SURELY THINK ME MAD!

LATE THAT EVENING, TWO FAMOUS ARCHEOLOGISTS, PETER RANDOLF AND JOHN READE, MEET AT THE EXPLORERS CLUB DOWNTOWN!

HELLO, PETER! I GOT YOUR NOTE... BUT ISN'T IT A BIT LATE TO BE MEETING HERE AT THE CLUB?

MY NOTE! BUT, JOHN, I DIDN'T SEND A NOTE! YOU SENT ME ONE REQUESTING I SEE YOU HERE AT MIDNIGHT!



SUDDENLY, BEFORE THE BEWILDERED FRIENDS CAN CONTINUE---

SILENCE! YOU ARE BOTH MY GUESTS THIS EVENING!

G-GREAT GLORY! THE AZTEC DEVIL RULER!

A-AND CARRYING THE INFAMOUS MURDER MACE I UNEARTHED!



WEB OF EVIL

IN STUNNED HORROR THE TWO MEN RECOIL FROM THE CREATURE BEFORE THEM...

I-IMPOSSIBLE! T-THE THING'S BEEN DEAD FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS!

INDEED I HAVE! AND NOW I HAVE COME BACK TO LIFE TO SEEK VENGEANCE AGAINST YOU FOR DESECRATING MY TOMB!

MY EVIL HAS BEEN SCORNED BY THOSE WHO CAME TO LAUGH UPON MY MUMMIFIED BODY! DIE, DEFILERS...DIE!

THE CENTURIES OLD TERROR DESCENDS UPON THE PAIR; THE FLAILING MACE CUTS A SWARTH OF DEATH THROUGH THE AIR AND...

NOW, LET THE WORLD BELIEVE WE ARE INDEED THE SYMBOLS OF ALL THAT IS EVIL!

YOU SHALL NOT ESCAPE OUR VENGEANCE, JOHN READE! AS SURELY AS THE SUN WILL RISE TOMORROW YOU WILL DIE BY THE MURDER MACE!

MERCY... MERCY! G-GO BACK TO YOUR DUSTY TOMB... I'LL NEVER TROUBLE YOU AGAIN, DEVIL RULER!

BUT THERE IS NO MERCY WITHIN THE LONG-DEAD MONSTER— NOR IN THE MACE THAT HAS DEALT A THOUSAND DEATH BLOWS BEFORE!

AND THUS— VENGEANCE!

YAAARRGHH!

THEN, THE EYES OF THE FEARFUL DEATH RULER GLAZE OVER. WITH SLOW, MECHANICAL STEPS HE TREADS FROM THE SCENE OF HIS CARNAGE!

IT...IS DONE...NO MORE SHALL THEY SCOFF...AT OUR POWERS!

AFTERWARD, THE DAWN OPENS A DAY OF SHOCK AND HORROR AT THE MUSEUM!

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, MR. DANE...THIS MACE WAS THE WEAPON THAT KILLED THE MEN! CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE HANDWRITING OF THOSE NOTES WE FOUND IN THEIR POCKETS?

I-I SEE, THESE NOTES LURED THEM TO THE RENDEZVOUS OF MURDER! I-IT'S FANTASTIC!

WEB OF EVIL

SUDDENLY...

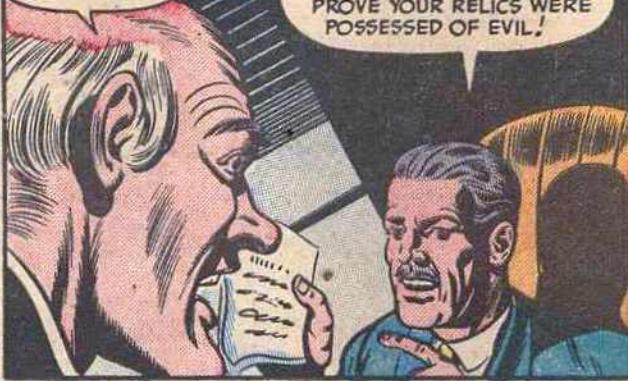
MR. DANE... I'VE JUST READ THE NEWS-PAPER! I... CAN'T KEEP MY HIDEOUS SECRET ANY LONGER! THE RELICS ARE KILLING THOSE MEN... THEY TOLD ME SO!

GREAT HANNAH! THE POOR DEVIL'S MAD... HE'S GONE OUT OF HIS MIND!



NO, NO! I FEARED YOU WOULD THINK ME CRAZY! THAT'S WHY I KEPT MY FEARFUL SECRET UNTIL NOW! THE RELICS... THEY PLOTTED THESE MURDERS TO PROVE THEIR EVIL!

NO, DUNSTER... THESE NOTES THAT LURED READE AND RANDOLF TO THEIR DEATH PROVE OTHERWISE! THEY ARE IN YOUR HANDWRITING, DUNSTER! YOU KILLED THOSE MEN TO PROVE YOUR RELICS WERE POSSESSED OF EVIL!



YOU'RE ILL... PERHAPS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE COMMITTING YOUR OWN HORRIBLE DEEDS, DUNSTER! YOU'D BEST GO WITH THE OFFICERS!

M-MY MIND... YES, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED! THOSE DEVILISH THINGS... THEY'VE TWISTED MY BRAIN... MADE ME A MURDERER! T-THOSE FEARFUL HEADACHES, AND NIGHTMARES... IT WAS THEIR EVIL POSSESSING MY SOUL!



WILD WITH THE HORROR OF HIS DEEDS, THE CURATOR RUSHES THROUGH THE MUSEUM...

I'LL KILL THEM... I'LL KILL THEM ALL FOR THEIR TREACHERY!

STOP, DUNSTER! STOP!

GREAT CATS! HE'S GONE BESENK!



THEN, AS DUNSTER RUSHES INTO THE STORAGE ROOM...



AND A MOMENT LATER...

T-THE IRON MAIDEN... HE STUMBLED INTO HER!

UGH! WHAT A MISERABLE FATE!



AFTERWARD, WHEN THE POLICE HAVE SEARCHED THE ROOM...

YEAH, THIS IS HOW HE DID IT, ALL RIGHT! USED THIS DISGUISE TO MAKE UP AS THAT HIDEOUS AZTEC DEVIL RULER!

AND THAT MEANS HE STRAPPED THE DEATH MASK ON THE FIRST VICTIM ALSO! HE WAS HIS OWN EVIL!

YES, BUT IT'S STRANGE HE SHOULD MISTAKENLY STUMBLE INTO THE CLUTCHES OF THE IRON MAIDEN TORTURE INSTRUMENT! PERHAPS... THE EVIL HE FEARED ACTUALLY DID EXIST!



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- TIME

- DATE

- SPEED

- DISTANCE

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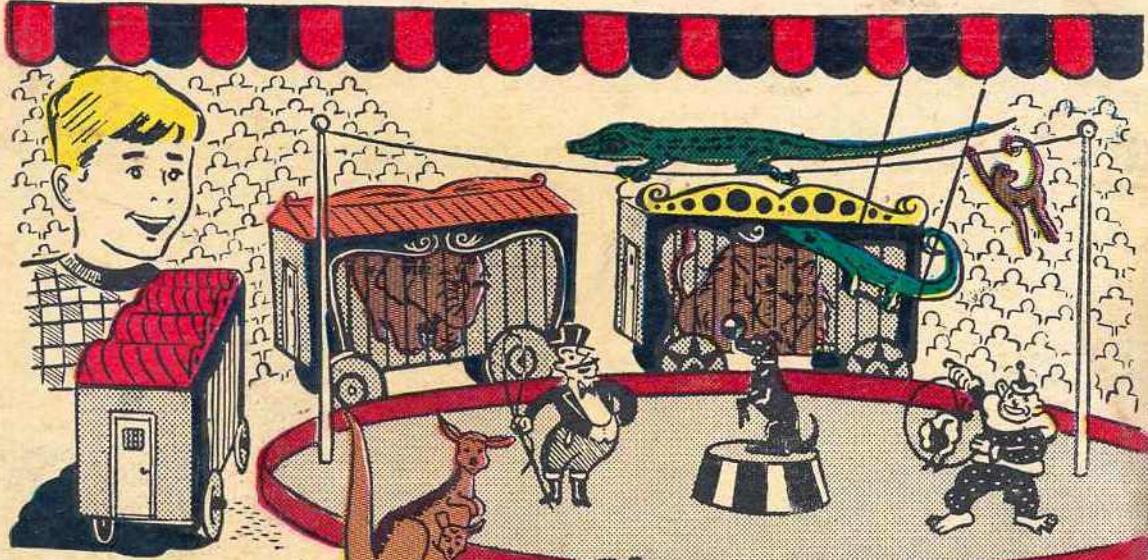
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